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REMARKS

Claim Summary

Claims 1-2, 9-12, 14-94, and 97-104 stand canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof; claims 3-5, 95, 96, 105-109 and 113-115 stand amended herein and claims 6-8 and 110-112 stand either in their original form or as previously presented.

Applicant respectfully requests entry and favorable consideration of the amendments and remarks tendered herewith.

The amendments herein are intended to place the application in condition for allowance, and should not require additional search or raise new issues regarding the subject matter claimed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 105 and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement but were otherwise deemed "as currently drafted." Applicant herewith amends claims 105 and 106 to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and thus claims 105 and 106 stand allowable as amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 104.

The remaining dependent claims have been amended (or canceled) so they depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 105 and claim 106.

Inasmuch as said claims are allowed upon entry of the present Amendment After Final, Applicant respectfully asserts that all other grounds for rejection stand traversed and said claims pass to timely issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

The grounds of rejected thus traversed consist of the following.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 104, 108, 109, 11-113 and 115 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,549,717).

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-17, 95, 96, 107 and 110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. in view of Howard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,439,760).

Claim 114 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. in view of Idota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,780,181).

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

4 Oct. 04



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